

Amendments to the Drawings:

The enclosed formal drawings replace the existing figures.

Attachment: Formal Drawings

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 are pending in this application. Applicants appreciate the Office Action's indication that claims 13-23 are allowed, and claims 4-12 contain allowable subject matter.

By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended to depend from allowed claim 13. Claims 8 and 19 are amended to correct a typographical error. Formal drawings are enclosed to obviate informalities in the originally filed drawings.

The Office Action objects to the drawings. Formal drawings are enclosed to obviate informalities in the originally filed drawings, as discussed above. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

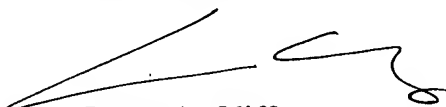
The Office Action objects to claims 8 and 19. Claims 8 and 19 are amended to correct a typographical error, as discussed above. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to claims 8 and 19 is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 4,436,406 to Murasaki et al. ("Murasaki"). Claim 1 is amended to depend from allowed claim 13, as discussed above. Thus, claims 1-3 all contain allowable subject matter. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:GXL/rle

Attachments:

Formal Drawings as Replacement Sheets
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: January 9, 2006

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